

COVID-19

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health What to expect at your child's graduation

This year's graduation ceremonies and festivities will look different from past celebrations. You can make your plans for the day as soon as your child's school announces their plans. Meanwhile, for detailed information about the safety rules that schools must follow, click on the state's [Graduation Guidance](#) on this topic.

Schools are encouraged to keep in-person attendance to a minimum. Your child's school may:

- Avoid the risk of an in-person graduation ceremony entirely by opting for a fully virtual event or a drive-in or a drive-through graduation ceremony.
- Conduct an in-person seated event with precautions for safety. In this case:
 - The event will be held outside;
 - Attendance will be limited to graduates, their families and household members;
 - Each graduate will be allowed a limited number of guests with seats reserved in advance;
 - Attendance will be limited to persons who live in California, unless the party as a whole is fully vaccinated;
 - Your party will be asked to arrive together to be directed to your seating area together.

Everyone (graduates and guests) should:

- **Conduct a symptom check before coming to the ceremony.**
 - Anyone who is not well, has symptoms of COVID-19 or has been exposed to someone with COVID-19, should stay home. Many schools will offer livestreaming for off-site friends.
 - Guests may be screened at entry to the ceremony.
- **Wear a mask, even if fully vaccinated.**
 - Masks should have at least two layers of tightly woven, breathable material and must fully cover the nose and mouth and fit snugly against the sides of the face and around the nose.
 - The only exceptions are for children under 2 or anyone who has been told by a doctor that they cannot wear a mask safely. Note: people with most underlying conditions (asthma, for example) can safely wear masks but if you cannot, search ph.lacounty.gov/masks for alternatives.
- **Comply with social distancing.**
 - You will be allowed to sit with your family/guests, who are part of one household.
 - Your group will be seated at least 6 feet away from other groups, and you must stay in place, either seated or standing next to your chair, throughout the ceremony.
- **Bring what you need with you.**
 - Sun protection: you may need a hat and sunscreen or even a jacket. Check the weather.
 - Water: bring a refillable water bottle and extra for your guests and graduate.
 - Hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol should be in your pocket to use after going to the bathroom or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. Bathrooms will be open and cleaned often, and hand sanitizer will be provided.

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Graduation is a momentous occasion to be celebrated by students and their families. We owe a special tribute to students who made it through this difficult year. Now it is up to all of us to make their celebration the joyous, safe time it should be.

- If a school official reminds you about attendance restrictions or rules for social distancing or use of masks, remember that they are protecting you, your family, the school, and the public.
- Follow the simple rules noted above; they are based on science and reflect research from all over the world about what it takes to stay safe.

Congratulations to the Class of 2021!

